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For Immediate Release
June 20, 2005

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Patterson bill helps workers get educational funding assistance

LANSING – “Should Michigan jobs all go overseas because Michigan workers are unprepared for emerging technologies? No!” says Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton. “We must reverse the trend. Help is on the way!”

Michigan workers will get new opportunities for vital, work-related higher education under legislation that passed the Senate last week. Senate Bill 387 aims to promote worker education through tax credits to small businesses in Michigan.

Patterson, sponsor of the bill, said, “Our economy needs long-term help to steer us in the right direction. Our workforce is not ready for emerging jobs of the 21st Century. Sixty percent of future jobs will require training only 20 percent of our present workers now have. This is alarming. Specialized training is essential in the global competition we now face. My bill assists working men and women with tuition, fees and text books. We must have classes that will improve work performance, marketability, and measurably contribute to our economy.”

Through a system of incentives, the bill will help small and medium-sized businesses, those with fewer than 250 employees, provide job training and additional education funds that they may not be able to provide directly or otherwise.

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